



**SPECIAL MEETING/WORKSHOP OF CITY COUNCIL
JANUARY 23, 2020 – 4:00 PM
MUNICIPAL COURTROOM
GEORGETOWN, SOUTH CAROLINA**

1. CALL TO ORDER

Notice of this meeting has been made in accordance with the South Carolina Code of Laws as amended.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Mayor Brendon M. Barber, Sr.
Council Member Tupelo Humes
Council Member Carol R. Jayroe
Council Member Al Joseph
Council Member Hobson H. Milton
Council Member Clarence C. Smalls

MEMBERS ABSENT

Mayor Pro Tempore Rudolph A. Bradley

ALSO PRESENT

Dr. Sandra E. Yúdice, City Administrator
Mrs. Elise Crosby, City Attorney
Ms. Stephanie Buccione, City Clerk
Mr. Orlando Arteaga, Engineer
Mrs. Debra Bivens, Director of Finance
Mr. Will Gunter, Water Utilities Director
Chief Charlie Cribb, Georgetown Fire Department
Mr. Alan Loveless, Director of Electric Utilities
Ms. Angela Rambeau, Director of Planning and Community Development
Chief Kelvin Waites, Georgetown Police Department
Mr. Isaac Williams, Fleet Superintendent

MEDIA

Georgetown Times - Mr. Richard Caines
GAB News - Mr. Scott Harper

2. ANNOUNCEMENT CONCERNING ELECTRONIC DEVICES

Mayor Brendon M. Barber, Sr. called the Special Meeting/Workshop of City Council to order at 4:00p.m. and requested all cell phones or electronic devices be turned off or placed on mute, with the exception of first responders, so as to not interrupt the meeting.

3. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mayor Barber opened the Public Comment portion of the meeting and recognized Ms. Tanya Jackson. Ms. Jackson stated her family resides on Simms Street and they have had issues with flooding since October 2016. Ms. Jackson stated she contacted City Council in 2016 and they responded they would look into it but never did. She contacted the City Administrator in 2018 but never received a response. Ms. Jackson said that she cannot get flood insurance because they do not live by the water. Ms. Jackson stated it is important to fix these issues with the Stormwater plan.

Mayor Barber recognized Ms. Edie Graves. Ms. Graves said that she agrees that the Stormwater fee increases are necessary since it has been twenty years since any increases have been done. Ms. Graves pointed out concerns before the City should start with implementation of the Stormwater plan. Everyone should be given notice of what exactly their increase will be because many small businesses may have to close. Ms. Graves stated some churches believe they are exempt and that it is a tax but it is not a tax. Ms. Graves encouraged there should be City residents and not just City employees on the Stormwater Appeals Board.

Mayor Barber recognized Mr. Tom Doran. Mr. Doran said he is thankful to see that something is going to be done regarding the flooding.

Mayor Barber announced due to the special guests attending the City Council Special Meeting/Workshop, the Public Comments section will adjourn and reconvene after agenda item 4. Feasibility Study Addressing the Harbor Silting issue in Georgetown, South Carolina.

Mayor Barber recognized Mr. Sel Hemingway, Members of County Council, Congressman Tom Rice, State Representative Carl Anderson, and Ms. Jordy Yarborough from the Port Authority as special guests.

4. PRESENTATIONS

A. Feasibility Study Addressing the Harbor Silting Issue in Georgetown, SC:

B. Phase I: Final Report Presentation

C. Phase II: Developing a Strategy to Overcome Georgetown Harbor Silting

Dr. Till Hanebuth from Coastal Carolina University reviewed maps showing the history of the Georgetown inner harbor. Dr. Hanebuth said the purpose of the feasibility study was to explore potential engineering solutions to restore and maintain the inner harbor vessel navigability. Dr. Hanebuth reviewed a map of the current situation of the inner harbor. Dr. Hanebuth stated before any technical solution is installed, the harbor needs to be dredged first. Dr. Hanebuth reviewed the collection of field data which entailed bathymetric mapping, environmental monitoring, sensor calibration, and sediment sampling and analysis. Dr. Hanebuth reviewed a three dimensional coastal ocean circulation model that incorporated functional modules of sediment transport and seabed morphodynamics. This

allowed investigations behind the silting processes. Dr. Hanebuth reviewed how the tides and flow of water effect the silting of the inner harbor. He said it is pumping in more silt than before. Dr. Hanebuth said they evaluated how the harbor was dredged until 2006. Dr. Hanebuth said when the study was started a little over a year ago it was about the waterfront to allow more recreational traffic. However, there is a need to keep the area open for the steel mill. Therefore, the correct engineer design will need be identified along with calculating the costs. He said this would be done in phase two. Dr. Hanebuth said that it would cost \$3-4 million to dredge the waterfront area and between \$10-12 million to dredge the western area of the inner harbor. Dr. Hanebuth reviewed simulation models based on the following scenarios: installation of near bottom deflection walls at both entrances; partial closure of both harbor entrances; narrowing of both entrances and separation into two basins; complete closure of the artificial shortcut; and pipe connection between Sampit River and inner harbor. Dr. Hanebuth stated the effects of storm surge including king tides need to be included in the study. Dr. Hanebuth said that it would be helpful for decisions to be made during phase two. He said there would need to be a phase three as well.

5. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mayor Barber reconvened the Public Comments portion of the meeting and recognized Mr. James Sanderson. Mr. Sanderson addressed Council and introduced himself as the President of the United Steel Workers Local 7898. Mr. Sanderson thanked Dr. Hanebuth for the presentation and Team Georgetown for their efforts in Washington DC. Mr. Sanderson said the steel mill has \$6 million set aside for the inner harbor project and can used to fund the study of what needs to be done. He said the inner harbor would be important to Georgetown and the state of South Carolina.

Mayor Barber recognized State Representative Carl Anderson. Representative Anderson said the inner harbor study presentation was excellent and this project is very dear to him. He said \$3 million was placed in the state budget for Port Georgetown.

Mayor Barber recognized Mr. Tom Dees. Mr. Dees addressed Council and stated he is in support of the inner harbor dredging.

Mayor Barber recognized Mr. Jim Moore. Mr. Moore addressed Council and introduced himself as the new Plant Manager for Liberty Steel. Mr. Moore thanked Dr. Hanebuth for the presentation and stated the inner harbor dredging project is important. Mr. Moore also thanked Team Georgetown, Mayor Barber, and others who are in support of dredging the port. Mr. Moore said they are committed to cleaning up the area of the steel mill and the City.

Mayor Barber recognized Mr. John Kenny. Mr. Kenny addressed Council and stated there is a major commitment in the City to have Georgetown as a working waterfront. Mr. Kenny said it is important that the penny sales tax money is set

aside and used for the inner harbor project.

6. Stormwater Ordinance and Utility Fee Proposed Revisions

Mr. Orlando Arteaga reviewed the recommendations from WK Dickson's study in 2018. Mr. Arteaga stated the Stormwater utility revisions include the defining of Equivalent Residential Unit (ERU) as 2,595 square feet, residential property charges will be based on based on a meter and the fees will increase from \$6 to \$8 a month. Mr. Arteaga stated non-residential properties include commercial, industrial, nonprofit, and public. Mr. Arteaga said the revisions of the ordinance would change the non-residential properties new rates would be based on their impervious surface and vacant or undeveloped parcels, both residential and non-residential, would pay a flat rate of \$4 per month. Mr. Arteaga reviewed how the new rate would be calculated for non-residential customers. Mr. Arteaga said there will be a Stormwater Appeals Board that will address fee and notice of violation appeals. The board will include three members appointed by Council and a Board Chair that will be appointed by the Mayor. Mr. Arteaga reviewed a list of suggested revisions to the ordinance regarding drainage. Mr. Arteaga stated standards required for Stormwater design for engineers, developers, and contractors. He said the City could apply for an EDA Grant to help cover some of the costs for the Stormwater Management Plant. Mrs. Debra Bivens explained the formula used to calculate the new rates that were recommended by WK Dickson. Mrs. Bivens explained if the recommended rate of \$12 per ERU is approved, the City will collect approximately \$17 million in the next twenty years for the first phase of the Stormwater Management Plan that includes twelve projects. Mrs. Bivens reviewed a less aggressive timeline for increasing rates for non-residential customers that would increase from \$8 per ERU to \$12 per ERU over the next seven years. This would collect \$10,500,000 over the next twenty years and delay implementation of the Stormwater Management Plan due to the reduced revenue. Discussions followed.

7. PRESENT DRAFT STRATEGIC PLAN

Dr. Sandra Yúdice presented a draft of the Strategic Plan for the City. Dr. Yúdice said they will collect feedback from the Community as to what the residents want to see in the City. Once that information is compiled, a Strategic Plan will be brought to Council for approval. Dr. Yúdice said she will put the vision mission, values, and guiding principles on the City Administrator's Report on the February meeting. She said this will provide guidance during the community meetings.

8. PORT TANK COLOR SELECTION AND LOGO

Mr. Will Gunter presented Council with a PowerPoint slide of the proposed new paint color for the Port Tank. Discussions followed.

9. ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn the Special Meeting of City Council.

Council Member Milton moved, seconded by Council Member Joseph.

Mayor Barber called for the vote

RESULT: **APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]**

MOVER: Hobson H. Milton, Council Member

SECONDER: Al Joseph, Council Member

AYES: Milton, Barber Sr., Jayroe, Joseph, Humes, Smalls

ABSENT: Bradley

The Special Meeting/Workshop adjourned at 5:58pm.

Stephanie Buccione

City Clerk

Date Approved: 02/20/20